THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) There is no post of Director (Technical) at BHEL, Bhopal Plant.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement age of public sector executives

3329. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the retirement age of senior officers in public sector undertakings under his Ministry including Directors and Chairman;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of senior public sector executives are still continuing in service even after crossing the supreannuation age, if so, the names of such officers, their age, designation, name of public undertaking, location salary and perks enjoyed by these executives; and

(c) whether in January, 1983, Government ordered for the termination of services of all such executives?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The retirement age in respect of Board-level appointees in public sector undertakings is 58 years. The retirement age of officers of below Board-level is also 58 years, but in a few public sector undertakings, which are taken-over companies, the retirement age of executives who joined prior to nationalisation, is 60 years.

(b) and (c) Instructions were issued in February, 1983, to public sector undertakings not to grant extension and give re-employment to superannuated persons. They had also been advised that whenever any extension or re-employment of superannuated persons is inescapable, approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet is required in respect of posts where the pay (including pension and pensionary equivalent of retirement benefits) proposed to be allowed to such person exceeds Rs. 2,500/- per month or where the minimum of the pay scale proposed to be given to such person is Rs 2,500/- or more. Information regarding the names, age, designation, salary and perks of the senior executives in public sector undertakings who are still continuing in service after superannuation as well as the names of the public sector undertakings, their location etc. are not readily available. It will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Bye-elections to legislatures while litigation is pending in Supreme Court

3330. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bye-elections to legislatures can be held if relevant litigation is pending in the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether it is the duty of the Election Commission to ensure such scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Depletion of forests by paper mills

3331. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast depletion of forests by paper mills;

(b) what are the schemes being implemented to foster alternative sources of raw material for paper mills; and

(c) what is the present stage of implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) There are a number of factors responsible for depletion of forests. This cannot be attributed solely to paper mills although forests are an important source of raw material for the paper industry.

(b) and (c) Afforestation of quick growing species is being taken up to meet the increased demand on forest resources, including the raw material requirement for the paper industry, and about 1.76 million hectares have been planted during 1986-87. Further in order to reduce the pressure on indigenous forest resources and to enable the paper industry to meet its requirement of raw materials, the following reliefs and concessions have been extended to the industry:—

(i) Paper containing not less than 75 per cent by weight of bagasse is exempted from the whole of excise duty.

(ii) Paper mills utilising other non-conventional raw materials, such as wheat/rice straw, waste paper, etc. are charged excise duty at concessional rates.

(iii) Import of wood pulp, chips and logs and waste paper is permitted under OGL.

(iv) Import of wood pulp and chips is free of customs duty, while import of waste paper and wood logs attracts nominal customs duty.

(v) The requirement of industrial licence has been dispensed with in the case of manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residue, waste and bagasse.

Market share for determining dominance

3332. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended that the market share for determining dominance should be increased from 1/3rd to 50 per cent;

(b) what is the rationale behind such a decision to dilute the concept of dominance and how will it help the industry; and

(c) whether the rate of sickness in the small industry is alarming and if so, the steps taken by Government to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per information compiled by RBI, out of 18,12,580 borrowing units in SSI sector enjoying total bank credit amounting of Rs. 8,321.04 crores as at the end of June, 1986, 1,28,687 units with outstanding bank credit of Rs. 1184.22 crores have been identified by banks as sick which constitute about 7.1 per cent. A number of measures have been taken towards rehabilitation of sick units in the small scale sector including, *inter-alia*, issue of guidelines by RBI in February, 1987 for identification of sick units; setting up of special cells by RBI/IDBI/Scheduled Commercial Banks to tackle the problems of sickness; liberalisation of margin money for rehabiitation, etc.

Comments of C.F.T.R.I. to the Punjab agro-Pepsi Cola proposal

3333. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the comments of C.F.T.R.I. Mysore to the Punjab Agro-Pepsi Cola proposal; and

(b) whether C.F.T.R.I. has approved the proposal and if so, on what basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) It is not the policy of the Government to disclose the comments of individual departments/ministries/agencies one proposals received for industrial approvals.

Cycle Corporation of India

3334. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned